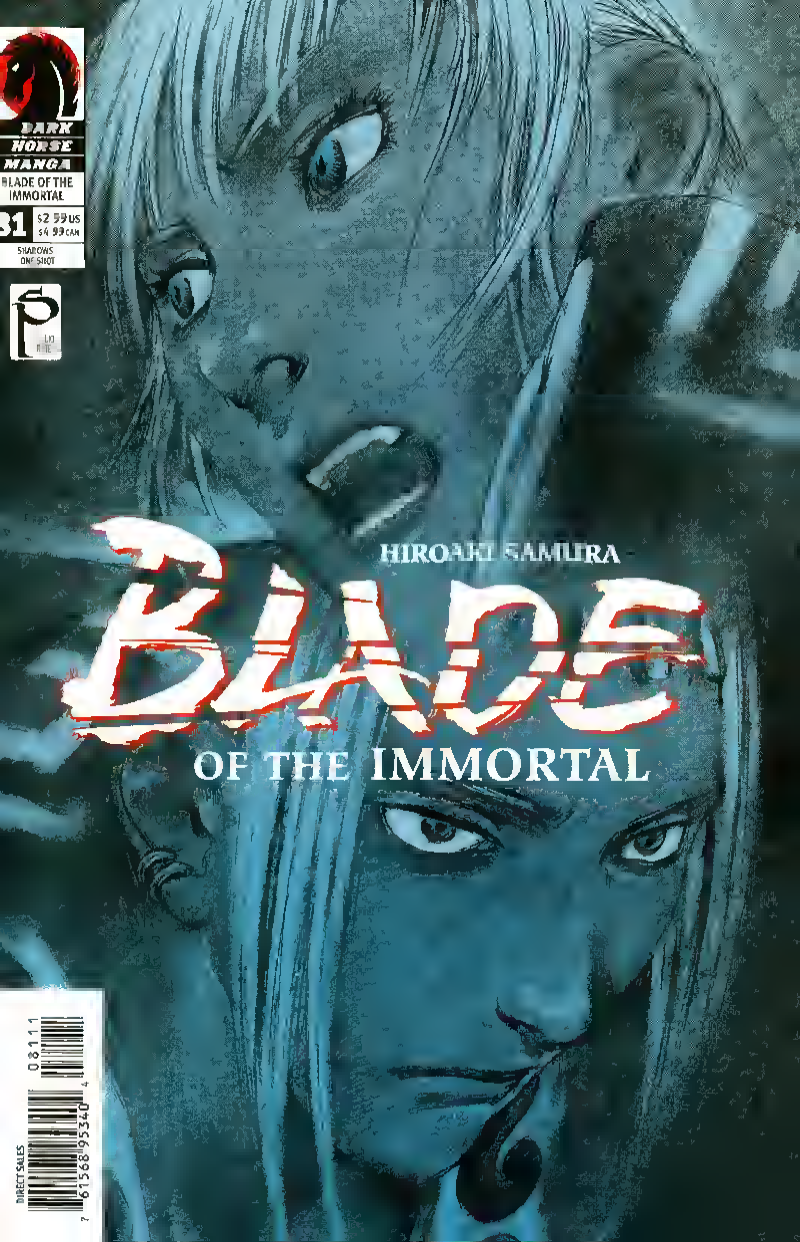
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BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Immortal Scanner

Nice enough to distro the stuff

THE STORY SO FAR

- Series: Blade of the Immortal
- Date: 2003 10 29
- Volume: 13?
- Chapter: 081
- Format: Left to Right
- pages: 00-32 (33 jpgs w/cover)
- Size: 9 04MB
- Source: Dark Horse Montly Issues (UPC 6156895340)
- Last Rls: GitS 2 c03-06

There's a letter section in this issue but its useless, imo.

ENJOY!

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

translation by

DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH

lettering and retouch by

TOMOKO SAITO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MANJI
Immortal *rōnin*

RIN
Last heir of the Mutenichi *ryū dojō* destroyed by Ittō-*ryū*

ANOTSU
The leader of the Ittō-*ryū* sword school

KENSUI
Head of the Shingyōtō-*ryū*

HISOKA
Bride to Anotsu; agreed to marriage as part of an arrangement to merge the Shingyōtō-*ryū* into the Ittō-*ryū*

THE STORY SO FAR

Infected by *kessenchu* mystical bloodworms which can heal all wounds and grant their host immortality Manji is bloodthirst led to the capture and murder of his sister To atone for the 100 good people who died at his hand under his corrupted lord, Manji vowed to slay 1 000 evil men in exchange for the release of death

Two years earlier, when her parents were murdered on her fourteenth birthday by Anotsu Kagehisa's ittō-*ryū* swordsmen Rin Asano became part of a mad revenge cycle which began when Anotsu's grandfather was thrown out of the Asano clan s Mutenichi-*ryū dōjō* fifty years before A quest for vengeance was instilled in Anotsu a similar quest now haunts Rin Upon learning of Manji, she enlisted his aid to destroy the Ittō-*ryu* and avenge her parents.

Anotsu and Hisoka have been wed As the newlyweds consummate their union, the Shingyōtō-*ryu* and the Ittō-*ryū* become one However, all is not well Kensui has received a disturbing message with grave implications It seems that there is much trouble ahead

designer DEBRA BARLEY assistant editor MICHAEL CARRIGLITTO editor TIM ERVIN-GORE publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

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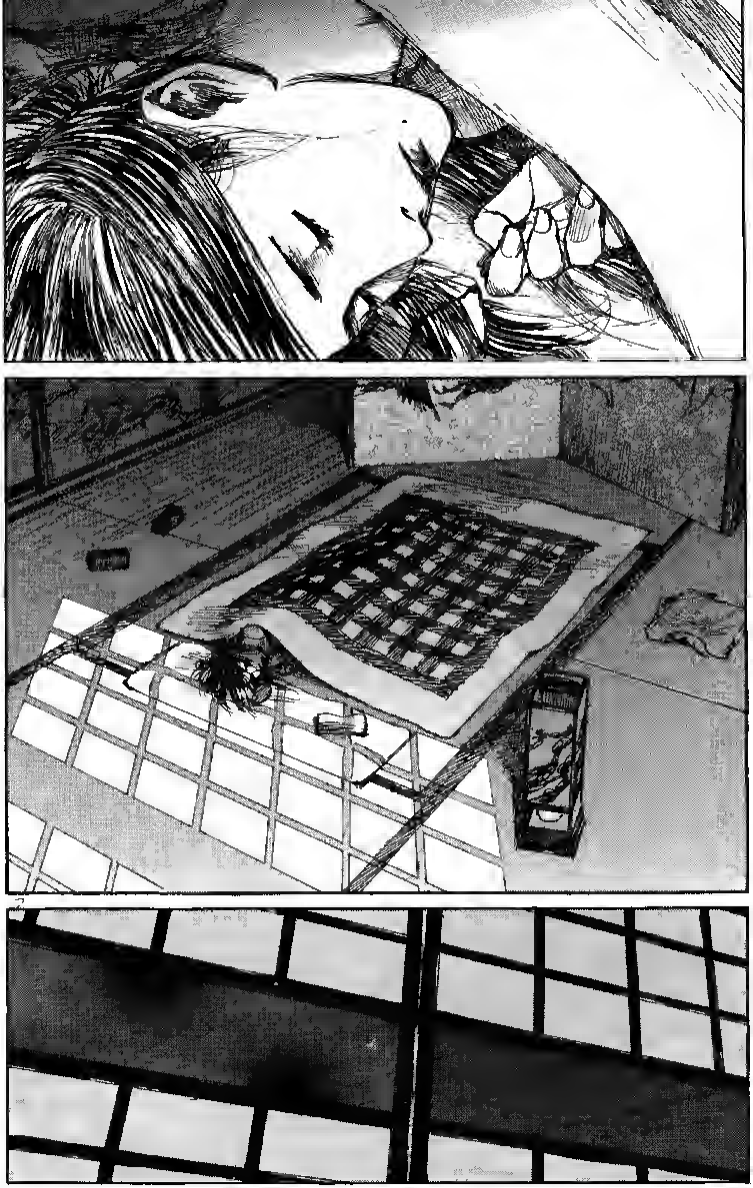
無限の住人

SHADOWS



SO YOU'RE REALLY HEADED BACK...?
MM.
HOW IS KENSUI-DONO?
I HEARD HE COLLAPSED AT THE BANQUET. NOTHING SERIOUS, I HOPE...?
NO. PROBABLY JUST TOO MUCH SAKE.
THE MASTER DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT HE TURNED SIXTY THIS YEAR.
STILL... IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT, ONLY ME HERE TO SEE YOU OFF.
SHALL I ROUSE THE YOUNG MIS-TRESS...?
NO... IT'S FINE.
THE CEREMONY AND THE BANQUET WERE PROBABLY HARD ON HER. I WANT TO LET HER REST.

NOW THAT THE YOUNG LADY'S YOUR WIFE...
...IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, I KNOW. BUT... CAN I SAY ONE THING, ANOTSU-SAN..?
THE YOUNG LADY'S REAL JOB ISN'T TO BE YOUR WIFE.
IT'S TO BEAR AND RAISE YOUR CHILDREN.
SHE'S STILL A SAMURAI WOMAN. AT THE CORE, SHE'S A LOT STRONGER THAN YOU THINK.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO TREAT HER AS IF SHE'S... DAMAGED GOODS. IN MY OPINION, IT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.

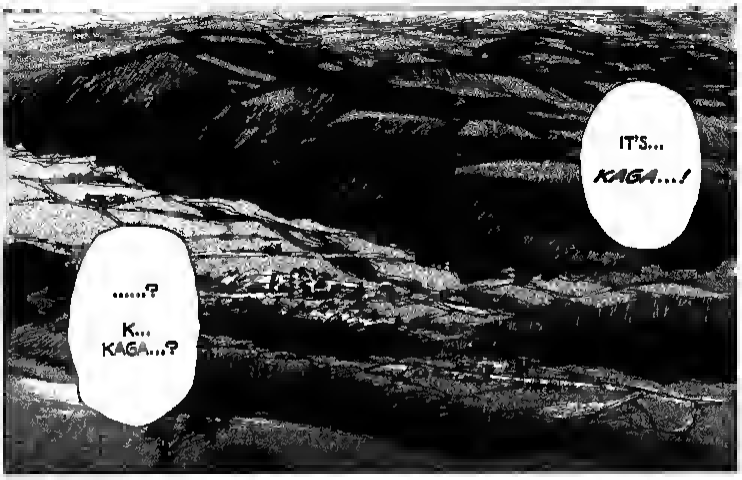
YES... I SHOULD BE BACK IN ABOUT A FORT-NIGHT.
ANYWAY, COME BACK FOR HER AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
I WON'T FORGET THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

AH...?

MASTER! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

NO! KOZUE...
GET EVERY-ONE...
IF I RUN, I CAN STILL CATCH UP. I'LL GO AND--
YOU JUST MISSED HIM... HE ONLY LEFT A MINUTE AGO.

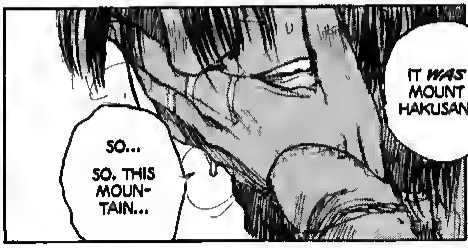
GET EVERYONE UP AND INTO THE DŌJŌ.
EVERY-ONE, UNDER-STAND?!
WHOO


IT'S...
KAGA...!
.....?
K...
KAGA...?

.....
.....!

Huff

shuddering shaking
.....
ungh...


IT WAS MOUNT HAKUSAN!
SO...
SO. THIS MOUN-TAIN...

THANK GOD...
THANK G-
.....
.....
IN OTHER WORDS... I JUST USED MY LAST BIT OF STRENGTH TO CLIMB *OVER* MOUNT HAKUSAN, THE ONE ROUTE *EVERYONE* WHO GOES TO KAGA *AVOIDS*.
NO. IT'S OKAY.
JUST FORGET IT. IT'S *OKAY*.
I'M ALMOST *THERE*...!
ONCE I'M OFF THIS MOUN-TAIN...

WHEN I THINK THAT *MAN* IS OUT THERE, *SOMEWHERE* IN THIS LAND...!
WHEN I THINK *THAT*...
HEH HEH HEH...!
DAMN YOU, ANOTSU KAGEHISA! *WASH* YOUR NECK...
...AND *WAIT* FOR MY *BLADE!*

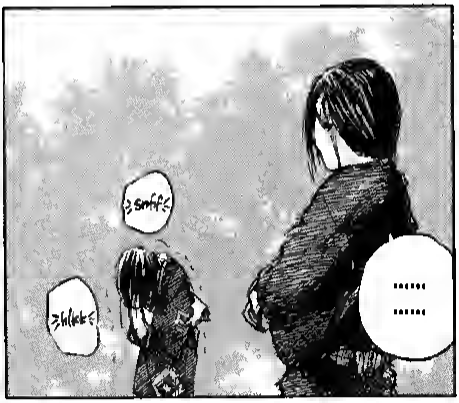
BUT DADDY...
THAT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST TRICKS IN THE BOOK. IGNORE HER!
NO NO TRICK
P PLEASE SOMEONE
F... FOOD...

WHSSSHH
?!
HELLO...?
NNG..
I'M...
ALIVE?
OH...
I'M...
OKAY?

WELL...? CAN YOU STAND?
AH... .....
NNK!
AAHH...
N- NO.
NO, NO, NO, NO...
NOOOO!

AH!
=krakk=
=krakk=
AH...?
YOU?!

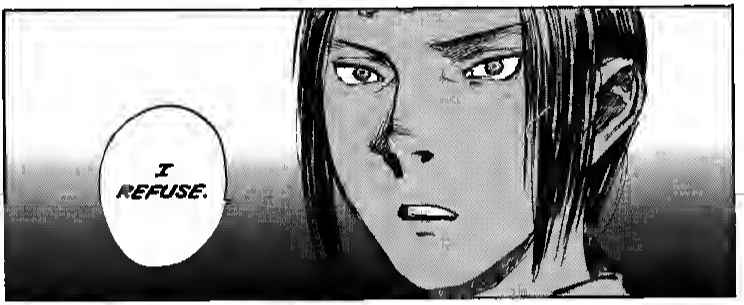
YOU'RE SO *FILTHY* I COULDN'T TELL.. ARE YOU *REALLY* ASANO TAKAYOSHI'S *DAUGHTER*?!
SNIFF SNIF?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I *AM* HER!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M LOOKING FOR... .....
"WHAT AM I"...?! ARE YOU *KID-DING*?!
YOU! I'M...
.....
.....


sniff
hiccup
.....
.....

WH-WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?!
STOP IT... STOP IT!!

REMEMBER THIS, ANOTSU KAGE-HISA!
NOW AND FOREVER, IF I APPEAR BEFORE YOU...
...IT'S BECAUSE I'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH YOU!
YOU GET IT?!
I THINK SO...YOU'RE PLANNING TO STAB ME IN THE BACK?
PLEASE! DON'T INSULT ME.
NO, IN FACT...

WELL...?
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO *USE* ME IN THE *ITTŌ-RYŪ*?


I REFUSE.

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE YOUR ENERGY BACK, SO I'M LEAVING.
.....
.....

WAIT!
DAMN IT! JUST *HOLD* ON A SEC!!

LISTEN, YOU! I JUST SAID SOMETHING PRETTY DARN *RADICAL* AND *UNEXPECTED*, IF I DO SAY SO *MYSELF!*
AT *VERY* LEAST, ACT *SURPRISED* OR SOME-THING!
WHY? IT WAS TOTALLY PREDICT-ABLE.

YOU'VE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT ME THAT I ASSUMED...
THE NEXT TIME YOU SHOWED UP... YOU WOULDN'T BE RASH ENOUGH TO ATTACK DIRECTLY.
I ASSUMED YOU'D TRY SOME SORT OF TRICK.
FOR INSTANCE... PRETENDING TO SWITCH SIDES.
.....
.....!
H-HEY! WAIT A--
JUST TYPICAL WOMAN'S THINKING. NO SURPRISE AT ALL.
STILL, IT WAS WISE OF YOU TO LEAVE YOUR SWORD BEHIND.
I'M NOT LYING! IF YOU WANT PROOF...
I LEFT MA- I MEAN, I LEFT MY BODY-GUARD IN EDO!

YOU CROSSED THE MOUNT-AINS? A SINGLE WOMAN, ALONE?
Y... YES.
I'D LIKE TO PRAISE YOUR COURAGE, BUT...
YOU FOOL! YOU WERE COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR DEPTH! NO WONDER YOU ENDED UP BROKE AND STARVING!
YOU SAY YOU WANT TO JOIN THE ITTŌ-RYŪ.
THEN LET ME TELL YOU MORE ABOUT US.
THE ITTŌ-RYŪ IS A SWORD SCHOOL... AND NOT A SWORD SCHOOL. A TRADITION... AND NOT A TRADITION.
WE OFFER NO MEMBER-SHIPS. NO SECRET TECHNIQUE.
IT'S UP TO EACH FIGHTER IF HE WANTS TO BUY IN, OR NOT. QUALIFICATIONS...? ONLY ONE-- THE SWORD!

WE DON'T NEED SWORDSMEN WHO LOSE. AND SO...
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT YOU DON'T QUALIFY.
THERE. ANY QUES-TIONS?
YEAH! PLENTY!
THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS YOU COULD USE A GIRL.
KUNO-ICHI* WORK, THAT SORT OF THING.
*: A FEMALE SPY, NOT NECESSARILY A FEMALE NINJA.
HOW ABOUT COOK-ING! HEATING THE BATH!
I'LL DO ANY-THING! ANY-THING!
!
YES! YOU JUST NAME IT! BESIDES, THANKS TO YOU...
...I'M LIKE A POOR ORPHANED KITTEN, WANDERING ALONE IN THE WILDER-NESS!
IF YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN, TAKE RESPONS-IBILITY FOR--
SHUT UP.

HUH...?

.....
GUESS NOT, HUM.
UM... ARE THEY WITH YOU..?
YOU THREATEN ME KNOWING WHO I AM?
I ASK ONCE, FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

ANOTSU KAGEHISA... LEADER OF THE ITTŌ-RYŪ... WE TAKE YOUR LIFE!

GUESS I'M HERE.
UM... ARE THEY WITH YOU...?
YOU THINK I'D BE HANGING WITH X AM?
I ASK SINCE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

A... YOU KAME-SAN... LEAVE THE ITTO-RYU... WE TAKE YOUR LIFE?

ASSAS-SINS...?!
AH-!!
DON'T MOVE! CONTROL YOURSELF!
SHOWING UP HERE WHEN YOU DID...
BAD LUCK FOLLOWS YOU, WOMAN.
BUT I'LL SAY IT AGAIN--IT'S A BLESSING IN DISGUISE YOU CAME UNARMED.
WHETHER YOU'D DRAWN YOUR SWORD AGAINST THESE MEN TO PROVE YOUR WORDS...
...OR JOINED WITH THEM TO TRY AND KILL ME, YOU WOULD HAVE DIED HERE TODAY.
BUT INSTEAD YOU SHALL LIVE... AND LEARN.
GO CURL UP IN THE ROOTS OF A TREE, AND WATCH.

YOU INTERFERE WITH MY GRANDFATHER'S DREAM, AND BLOCK MY OWN PATH TO THE FUTURE.
...TAKE UP *ARMS* AGAINST THE THOUSAND *FOLLOWERS* BOUND TO ME.
THOSE WHO FACE ME KNOWING THAT NAME...
I AM *ANOTSU KAGEHISA*, HEAD OF THE *ITTŌ-RYŪ*.
VERY WELL, THEN... *YES!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!

LETTERS

send letters to:

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL, c/o DARK HORSE COMICS,
10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OREGON 97222
www.darkhorse.com • blade@darkhorse.com • www.studioproteus.com

ASSASSINS_?! Now it looks as if Rin and Anotsu have temporarily joined forces. This is an unexpected twist, indeed! Check out this month's letters!

Neil Cook Austin, TX

Just perusing your website after having finished reading the most recently published collection of *Blade of the Immortal* comics. I'm wondering when the next one will be coming out? My friend, who has followed it for a significantly longer period than I, places the collections coming our approximately six months apart since they generally contain six or seven issues (which come out each month) and it's her prediction that it will be coming around June or July. Is this about when it's planned? I'm extraordinarily anxious to get my hands on the next book.

Thanks!
M. Laird
via e-mail

Mr. Laird, you're going to have to wait a while longer for the latest collection of *Blade of the Immortal*. The latest volume, titled *Fall Frost*, doesn't go on sale until December 31! But be sure to tell the proprietor of your comic-book shop or book store that you're going to want a copy!

Dear Dark Horse

I am writing to thank you for the great comic you have put out. For a long time I have been looking for great samurai action with a good storyline, and I found it in *Blade*. I absolutely love how all the good guys are just so twisted and bloodthirsty, as well as the fantastic artwork! Naturally I went to the Internet to find a good discussion group so I could learn more about *Blade*. To my chagrin, all I found were a few mailing lists that were either dead or dying. So I decided to start my own message board. This message board is much more convenient than a mailing list as you can post on the site to avoid confusion. There are also plenty of great features such as voting and messaging.

We are just starting so we need new fans. So, if you're a fan of *Blade of the Immortal* drop by at www.avidgamers.com/boi/.

Keep up the great work!
Chris
via e-mail

Thanks, Chris! Tim and Mike will be logging on to your message board in the near future! Readers, go check out the message board and thank Chris for being a swell guy! If anyone has dedicated message boards or other sites related to *Blade of the Immortal*, drop us a line and we'll check 'em out!

Hey Guys

Thanks for printing my Manji in the last issue! I have an amendment to make though: my name isn't Nick Cook, it's Neil Cook, heh. Anyway, here's another drawing that's MUCH better than the last one!

Thanks guys!
Neil Cook
Austin, TX

Thanks, Nick! Er... Neil! Sorry about the name mix up. Thanks for the great image of Shiva. Uh... Shiva! Keep on sending the fan art and we'll keep on printing it!

That's all for this issue, kids! Keep sending in those letters!

—Tom & Mick (Uh... Tim & Mike!)

NEXT MONTH:

"Mourning Shadows"